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Title: Need to sanction the funds for infrastructure development in Puri so that Nabakelebar festival can be held smoothly.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity regarding Nabakalebar festival.

Sir, as you know, Puri is a holy city and is among the four Dhams in India. Nabakelebar festival is going to be held in 2015. This is a festival which is celebrated once in 15 years when the deities assume new forms. The Government of Odisha, under the dynamic leadership of hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, is gearing up for this momentous occasion. A number of projects are being undertaken for the infrastructure development and strengthening of existing services and amenities such as provision of drinking water, sanitation, health, augmentation of road network etc. More than 50 lakh pilgrims and tourists from different parts of the country and also from outside the country are expected to converge in Puri during this important festival. A proposal seeking special financial assistance of Rs. 1,397 crore for undertaking these developmental works has been submitted by the Government of Odisha.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction the required funds for early implementation of the projects so that the Nabakalebar festival can be held smoothly.